



Promoting Wildfire Safety Through Education and Action

**Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council  
Executive Committee Meeting  
April 17th, 2024**

**Executive Committee Directors Present:** Rob Hazard, Paul Van Leer, Nic Elmquist

**Executive Committee Directors Absent:** Kevin Varga

**Others Present:** A. Parkinson, T. Adams, K. Pananides, C. Harris

**1. Grazing Bio Report**

- a. Baron Ranch is set to be grazed next week (April 22nd)
  - i. J. Tobin reminds the EC that this site requires bio monitoring (identifying vulnerable plant species and adjusting the grazing site as is necessary / making sure the livestock don't get into areas where they might effect vulnerable species)
- b. The funds for this treatment have already been set aside in the budget that was presented to the Board during the last Board meeting (March).
- c. J. Tobin just needs the final OK to execute the contract and begin the graze.
- d. *Motion to approve executing the contract with Channel Islands Restoration to graze the Baron Ranch.*
  - i. *Director hazard firsts, Director Elmquist seconds. All in favor.*

**2. Office Space for Staff / Equipment**

- a. The FSC will have to move out of our current location at the old Direct Relief building by the end of June, 2024. (the building is being demoed)
- b. Potential New Locations
  - i. Bob Strojek with the Red Cross has a big building on upper state street with room they are not using. He has floated the idea that the SBCFSC may be able to move in at some point. AMP will discuss further with him.
  - ii. Fred Tan let AMP know County Fire might move their HQ to Buellton. At this location there may be space for the FSC, he will keep AMP updated.
  - iii. AMP has been looking into renting a small space somewhere in town if the locations from Redcross / County Fire do not pan out.
- c. The EC agrees that a last resort option would be to rent a small storage unit to keep equipment in until we can find a more permanent location.

**3. New Board Member Onboarding & Orientation Process**

- a. The EC discusses the current Board Member on-boarding process document



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- i. Updates are made to the information and items that new Board Members will be presented with.
    - ii. Updates are made to the onboarding tasks for new Board Members
  - b. EC reviews the items to put in the new Board Member welcome packet
  - c. Director Pananides provides insight into how the orientation process can be made more efficient / smoother
    - i. Orientation can be aided by creating a new Board Member mentorship program. The EC discussed pairing new members with more senior members to better learn the organization and to have a resource to ask questions.
    - ii. Have more time in person as a Board. This could come in the form of a mid year social event where the Board gets together and has conversation about the organization. New Board members would be brought into the fold faster and more comfortably.
    - iii. Create a communal calendar that shows all of the committee and subcommittee meetings. This could be paired with a document that describes the function and use of the committees.
    - iv. The EC also discusses making a packet that describes the current programs of the FSC to catch new Board Members up to speed.
  - d. Director Adams voices that the FSC should be trying to bring on individuals as Board members who have already attended meetings and are familiar with the organization.
    - i. The EC agrees, but points out it is very difficult for outsiders to learn everything about the organization during the Board meetings. Even if someone has attended several meetings they would still need to go through an orientation process.

**4. BOD Agenda**

- a. The EC reviewed and adjusted the agenda timeline for next week's meeting.

**General Notes:**

- EC reviewed the Board member ballot and discussed the process for voting this year. Instead of in person voting it makes more sense to do an email vote. This will be discussed at the next Board meeting.
- EC discussed asking the Board to donate funds for lunch at the Wildfire Evacuation and Survival Workshop.
- The EC meeting for next week is canceled and all relevant information will be discussed at the Board meeting.



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**Motions:**

- *Motion to approve executing the contract with Channel Islands Restoration to graze the Baron Ranch*
  - *Director hazard firsts, Director Elmquist seconds. All in favor.*

**Minutes Submitted Respectfully:** Charles Harris